

Minutes for the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting of April 7, 2008

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, Jeff Roth, and Scott Smith. Chad Gibson, Pete Howard, Stephen Quinn, Craig Murphy, and Joey Glushko were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

*The minutes from the January meeting were adopted with one amendment. Since Jack was not present at the last meeting, he asked us what the corrections were on last month's minutes.

Introductions. We all introduced ourselves for the benefit of Stephen Quinn who attended for the first time. Stephen told us that he would like to help out with people-oriented events.

Review artwork for Minuteman Bikeway banners in Arlington Center. Craig Murphy was present representing the sign vendor. Jack explained the orientation of the illustrations that we viewed. We discussed final content changes. Pete suggested that the maps on the banners should be more detailed as the arrows are drawn up the center of the road. Jack and Joey told us that the map is just an indication of where the path continues on the other side of Arlington Center. We discussed the banner maps extensively. Jack thought that the arrows should be more abstract. Ron liked the idea of fat arrows that indicate direction but not position. We decided that the maps were a good idea but need some tweaking. We then discussed the position of the Minuteman logo. The banner will be made of heavy duty fabric sewn to the pipes along the edges. Craig will do another version and contact Joey when it is ready for review.

Updates on recent events held in March, including the ABAC Winter Social, National Bike Summit, MassBike Bike Night, and Green Line Extension meeting. We talked about Nicole Freedman's presentation at the Winter Social. We all agreed that it was informative and entertaining.

Jack told us about the National Bike Summit. Boston got a lot of attention because of Nicole's talk there. Jack attended a day-long session on how to advocate for a bike-friendly community. Jack also reported that there will be a New England Congressional alternative transportation meeting this season.

Upcoming bicycle Education classes in Arlington. Classes are scheduled but Jack wasn't sure on the dates. See MassBike's website for class listings.

Update on ABAC request from Chelmsford's startup bike/pedestrian committee related to the new Bruce Freeman Rail-Trail. Jack told us that he has been in contact with the Chelmsford committee and giving them advice.

Discussion on planning this year's BIKE-Arlington Tour, scheduled for Sunday morning May 18. We will be using the same route as last year and ride it in the same direction. Stephan and Christopher will provide refreshments. Chad suggested that Jack have a bike class at the end of the ride or possibly the next week.

Discussion on forming a Friends of the Bikeway Committee in Arlington (or possibly a tri-town Friends group). Lexington has two committees — a Bicycle Advisory Committee and a Friends of the Bikeway Committee. We discussed whether we should form another committee in Arlington. Jack suggested the possibility of a regional Bikeway Friends committee. Ron gave us his thoughts about the purposes of the two committees. Some of us thought that we lack the centralized coordination of the three towns which would be necessary to make a regional committee work. Jack asked if the Lexington Friends Committee might be interested in expanding their charter to include Arlington and Bedford? We concluded that there is a need for a tri-town committee.

Review upcoming events, including future ABAC meeting dates. We discussed the local Pan-Mass Challenge Kids Ride idea, possibly for next year if PMC is interested in organizing a local event here. Christopher suggested having a combined ride with Lexington.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29.

*Denotes a vote was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.